KIM JONG UN

LET US USHER IN A GREAT GOLDEN AGE OF CONSTRUCTION BY THOROUGHLY APPLYING THE PARTY'S JUCHE-ORIENTED IDEA ON ARCHITECTURE

PYONGYANG, KOREA
JUCHE 103 (2014)

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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Letter to Those Attending the Grand Short Course
of Officials in the Construction Sector
December 8, Juche 102 (2013)

Foreign Languages Publishing House
Pyongyang, Korea
Juche 103 (2014)

It is of great significance that a grand short course of officials in the construction sector is being held for the first time in the construction history of our country when a heyday is being unfolded in construction and a general campaign is being waged for victory this year under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea.

This short course, held under the theme *Yesterday and Today of Juche-Oriented Architecture and Its Today and Tomorrow*, has been convened according to our Party's plan and on its initiative to review the successes and experiences in the work of the construction sector and usher in a great golden age in this sector in line with the demands of the developing revolution and times.

Today, when our Party and revolution have come to a new, historic turning point under the great banner of Songun, they are faced with the important task of scaling at an early date the high peak of building a thriving country, leaping from one decade to the next.

In the opening of a decade of the fresh leap forward by Songun Korea, our Party is attaching great importance to the work of the construction sector.

Construction is a patriotic cause of lasting significance for building a thriving socialist country, a people's paradise, and important work for increasing the economic might of the country and raising the level of its civilization.

When we build many monumental structures by bringing about innovations in construction, the firm foundations of a thriving country will be laid and a sound basis built for the people's happiness. Seeing the daily-changing appearance of their prosperous and civilized country, our people will feel a sense of great dignity and revolutionary self-respect and cherish

warmer affection for their country. The new construction speeds and the spirit of the times created at the grand construction sites inspire all the people and service personnel to wage a heroic struggle and perform feats in building a thriving country.

It is our Party's steadfast determination to usher in a new age of national prosperity by developing the current heyday in construction into a great golden age of construction in Songun Korea and by making the torchlight of innovation in this sector flare up as the flames of a great leap forward on all the other fronts of socialist construction.

Bearing in mind our Party's purpose in organizing this grand short course, all those attending should gain through it a clear understanding of the blueprint of our Party's plan for building a socialist economic giant, a civilized country, and the ways to implement the plan; thus they should make the short course an epochal occasion in bringing about another great leap forward in the construction sector.

The history of construction in our country is a proud history of achieving miracles and changes by racing against time at the pace of Chollima, spurred on by the speed campaign, guided by the outstanding ideas on architecture of the great Generalissimos and under their wise leadership.

The brilliant leadership exploits of Generalissimo Kim Il Sung, who created a new history of Juche-oriented and people-oriented architecture after the liberation of the country and built on the war debris a powerful country with a self-supporting economy, a people's paradise, and of Generalissimo Kim Jong Il, who put forward a comprehensive Juche-oriented theory on architecture and ushered in a heyday of grand socialist construction, will shine for ever as eternal assets in building a prosperous country.

Today, a heyday of construction has been unfolded in our country under the leadership of the Party, with the result that the

great Generalissimos' plan of building a thriving country is being translated into reality.

Thanks to the loyalty and heroic struggle of the service personnel of the Korean People's Army and the construction workers, the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the supreme sanctuary of Juche, has been laid out in a more solemn way as a grand monument to the immortality of the leaders, and proud structures of the age of the WPK, such as the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, Unha Scientists Street, Munsu Water Park and Masikryong Ski Resort, which will go well with the appearance of a civilized socialist country in their characters, contents and architectural styles, have been built in the short period of less than one year, instilling in our people a sense of great national dignity and pleasure.

The service personnel of the KPA and the construction workers have devoted their sweat and blood unstintingly in carrying out the Party's construction plan, thus proving in practice that Korea never fails to do what it is determined to do, and demonstrating to the whole world the wisdom and spirit of our people who are charging ahead at full speed; they are indeed heroes of the Songun era and treasures of our Party.

I extend warm thanks to those attending the grand short course of officials in the construction sector, the soldier-builders and the construction workers across the country who have displayed burning patriotic enthusiasm and unswerving devotion to usher in a heyday of construction in hearty response to the Party's long-term construction plan.

Today the officials and working people in the construction sector are faced with the heavy yet honourable task of laying the solid foundations of a socialist economic giant in the near future and taking the lead in opening up a new era of cultural attainment in the 21st century by carrying forward and developing the great Generalissimos' leadership exploits associated with their sector.

We should speed up production-related construction on all fronts of the socialist economy, including its vanguard sectors, basic industries, and light industry and agriculture so as to revitalize the national economy as quickly as possible and provide a reliable springboard for the building of an economic giant.

We should lay out the capital city of Pyongyang, the heart of Juche Korea and the hub of Songun-based culture, as a city of global standards in all aspects and raise a hot wind of construction across the provinces, cities and counties to remodel them in a beautiful fashion as suited to their characteristic features. By so doing, we can turn the country into a socialist paradise.

We should attain a new, higher phase in building a civilized socialist nation by pushing forward the projects for updating the conditions and environment for learning at educational institutions and ensuring the highest quality in setting up healthcare, sports and cultural facilities, as demanded by the times.

The goals for the construction sector are gigantic and ambitious. However, because we have the wise leadership of the Party and construction officials and workers who are boundlessly loyal to it, the ideals and dream of our Party and people to build a socialist paradise that is powerful and civilized at the earliest date possible are sure to be realized.

The officials and working people in the construction sector should not rest on their laurels but redouble their efforts, occupying the vanguard of the grand campaign for building a thriving country to lead today's success to a more brilliant victory tomorrow.

The guidelines to be followed in carrying out our ambitious construction plan and reaching our goals are the Party's

Juche-oriented idea and theory on architecture and its construction policy.

Juche-oriented socialist architecture is, in essence, based on the principle of giving first and foremost importance to the masses of the people, who are responsible for the country's architecture. It is the people themselves who create it and benefit from it. So it is a natural requirement in construction to give top priority to the aspirations and demands of the people and their convenience and to ensure its perfect ideological and artistic value and usability in conformity with their emotions and aesthetic sense. In construction we should preserve the Juche character by applying the principle of giving first and foremost importance to the masses of the people, combine national identity properly with modernity, and build at an extraordinary speed monumental structures that will surpass global standards and remain immaculate even in the distant future. This is the basic principle which we must abide by in construction and the core of the Juche-oriented idea on architecture.

"Let us usher in a great golden age of construction by thoroughly applying the Party's Juche-oriented idea on architecture!"–this is the militant slogan the officials and working people in the construction sector should hold up at present.

They should bring about a revolutionary change in the design, building work and the production of building materials so as to ensure that the country's construction sector reaches the global standards.

Design, building work and building materials are three elements of construction. The key to building excellent structures is the proper combination of these elements.

The main requirements of our Party's policy on developing design, building work and the production of building materials are to abide by the principle of prioritizing convenience over

aesthetic beauty, and the construction of infrastructure over that of superstructure, to make construction specialized, industrialized and modern at a high level and to complete projects at one go by adopting finish-one-at-a-time tactics and pressing ahead with them in a three-dimensional way.

First of all, we need to develop the architectural design sector rapidly.

Architectural design is the initial process in construction and creates an operational map for it. Keeping in mind that the future of a civilized country is visualized first on their drawing boards, architects should guarantee the highest level of excellence in their work, as intended by the Party and desired by the people.

They should fully embody the requirements of our Party's Juche-oriented theory on architecture and its construction policy in their architectural designs.

In drawing the designs for a structure, primary attention should be paid to providing the people, its users, with convenience for their comfort and then to creating an environment and conditions with the highest levels of safety, hygiene, sanitation, culture and aesthetics. It is also important to constantly update the formative and artistic features of architecture. It should be regarded as an iron rule in architectural design to give precedence to the designs of infrastructure, with due concern paid to modernizing the infrastructure network in keeping with the world trend.

It is important in architectural design to sustain the utility and characteristics of structures. General Kim Jong Il taught us that architecture is a composite art, so similarity and repetition are a taboo in architectural design.

Architects should always rack their brains for distinctive designs for structures of various forms that conform with their characteristic features, utility and capacities. As the

characteristics and utility of structures are manifested in the formation of the exterior and the interior space, their exterior should be configured and their interior plane arrangement designed so as to conform with their missions and functions. In architectural designs for local areas it is important to avoid the tendency of blindly copying the models in Pyongyang or of drawing them only for style's sake; they should assume varied and unique forms to bring out the character of each locality. In keeping with the world trend towards green architecture structures to be built should be designed on the principle of promoting the ecological environment and making them friendly to their surroundings. On the other hand, precautions should be taken against adopting architectural forms and trends that are incongruous with the Korean style on the pretext of creating distinctive designs.

The level of scientification in architectural design should be raised radically, in line with the demands of the new century.

Scientific methods should be introduced into design and its means modernized. Architects cannot present satisfactory designs for world-class structures based solely on their sense of responsibility and duty. The days are gone when designs were drawn on paper. The most pressing issue in putting methods of architectural design on a scientific basis is to develop and use the advanced CAD applications and system of a Korean style. National institutions for architectural design and similar units in the provinces should equip themselves fully with modern devices such as the latest computers and multidimensional design programs so as to ensure scientific accuracy and promptness in their work.

Special attention should be paid to ensuring the scientific accuracy of calculation of cost-effectiveness in design. A misplaced dot or line on a design can result in the country's materials, funds and manpower being wasted in large amounts.

From the standpoint that they are answerable to the country and people for the structures they design, architects should map out plans for them carefully in the light of economic profitability and draw designs of each structure only after repeated deliberation.

The architectural design sector should develop all its branches rapidly with the great ambition of beating the world. In recent years many monumental structures have been built, and in the course of this our architects have widened their horizons and improved the level of their skills; however, they still lag behind in many aspects in view of the requirements of the Party and people and the world trend of architectural development. For the present, it is important to develop designs for interior decoration, furniture and landscape gardening. Proactive efforts should be made to create green and intelligent architecture in conformity with the aspirations of mankind by adopting the latest world trends and excellent styles of other countries in architectural design.

Fresh innovations should be brought about in building work.

The process of building work is the major process in construction. However excellent a design may be, if the building work is not done properly, a structure will not meet the requirements of the Party and people.

Building work should be put on a specialized basis.

Making building work specialized is an important guarantee for higher speed and quality.

Radical steps should be taken to consolidate the material and technical foundations of central construction enterprises, improve their employees' level of technical knowledge and skill, and make up for the shortage of manpower. Provinces, too, should build up their own construction forces. Specialized construction enterprises should work effectively to reinforce their technical personnel and train skilled construction workers. Given the

experience in construction this year, it is advisable to second construction forces in the provinces for major projects in Pyongyang so that they can learn advanced construction methods and gain experience.

It is important to raise the level of industrialization and modernization decisively in building work.

Only then will it be possible to make work easier in the construction sector and carry out construction projects more quickly and better with less expenditure of manpower and materials.

Fundamental to putting building work on an industrialized and modern footing is upgrading the equipment, machinery and tools. Since we are to undertake many projects in the coming years in answer to the Party's call for a construction campaign, we should replace old building equipment, machinery and tools with modern ones. As we have the experience of manufacturing various types of building equipment and as we are supported by firm industrial foundations, we are surely capable of producing and supplying modern building equipment, machinery and tools if we buckle down to it. Factories and enterprises in the machine-building industry and construction units should make positive efforts to produce building equipment, machinery and tools. It is also important to make scrupulous arrangements for importing complete sets of up-to-date building equipment, machinery and tools.

Advanced building methods should be introduced proactively. People's aesthetic standards rise and building methods develop in step with the times. A struggle should be waged to invent and apply various building methods suited to the requirements of the times and the characteristics of the construction projects, and positive efforts be made to adopt the most up-to-date building methods. In order to raise construction

to a higher level, we should switch from wet to dry process.

The technical regulations and requirements in construction should be strictly observed. The slogan "Let us take responsibility for the safety of the project and guarantee its quality for all eternity" is located at every construction site; this slogan should not be regarded as being simply for the sake of publicity. We should make it a slogan of loyalty and patriotism under which the officials and working people in the construction sector support their Party and love their country, a slogan of clear conscience and practice under which they devote themselves to the well-being of the people and of the rising generations.

We should create an example in building work and generalize it. It is our Party's traditional method of work to create a model in a unit and generalize it across other units. We should raise the overall level of building work by setting up exemplary, model units in the capital and provinces and making all other construction units follow suit.

When carrying out a construction project, close attention should be paid to laying out the area surrounding the site. A structure should be completed in parallel with cleaning up the surrounding area and landscaping it with trees and lawns so that the traces of construction are removed entirely, along with the completion of the project.

An epochal turn should be made in the production of building materials.

Building materials production is decisive to the success or failure of construction. Building materials are to construction what shells and bullets are to the army.

Building-materials factories should normalize their production so that they can supply materials for construction in sufficient quantities. Cement factories and the units producing steel for construction should upgrade and perfect their existing production lines and operate their equipment at full capacity, and

thus produce and supply quality cement and steel according to the specifications. The production of standard aggregate and prefabs should be industrialized so as to boost their output rapidly. Modern bases for producing building materials should be set up in larger numbers to meet the growing demand for them in the construction sector.

The proportion of domestically-produced finishing materials should be raised. To produce building materials by relying on domestic resources is a requisite for the development of construction and, at the same time, it is an important aspect of political work to inspire the people with trust and pride in their own things and enhance their confidence. We should speed up the work of putting production lines on a modern and scientific basis at building-materials factories, including the Taedonggang Tile Factory and the Pyongyang Building-Materials Factory which were built with so much effort under the care of Generalissimo Kim Jong Il, and each factory should specialize in the production of a certain range and high standard of building materials and make it its tradition. Finishing-materials factories should strive for higher quality and make their product range varied. In future, our country should produce all the various kinds of finishing materials we need in construction.

We should channel strenuous efforts into developing materials for fittings and furniture so that large quantities of light, durable, convenient and attractive materials are produced. Positive measures should be taken to turn out varieties of quality coating materials by relying on locally-available raw materials.

The responsibility and role of the officials and working people in the construction sector should be enhanced so as to usher in a great golden age of construction.

They are point men and pioneers who perform the honourable duty of taking the lead in paving the way for the prosperity of

Songun Korea and the people's happy tomorrow. By relying on their ardent loyalty and patriotic zeal, our Party intends to open up a great golden age of construction with a view to translating the people's ideals and dreams into reality.

The officials in the construction sector should work to the best of their abilities and make persevering efforts to carry out the construction plan of the Party, and its intentions.

They should set a reasonable order of priority for construction that is in keeping with the requirements for building a thriving nation and the actual conditions in the country, and carry out the tasks assigned to their units by projects and stages in a sweeping manner by displaying their organizational abilities to the full and through bold, daring operations. They should lend an attentive ear to the creative suggestions of the masses and hold serious on-site discussions concerning the problems arising in construction, from the design and building work to the preparations for operating the buildings, so that they can take appropriate measures in time. They should all become locomotives that arouse and lead the masses in the grand construction campaign through personal examples by overcoming difficulties and hardships in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and with indefatigable courage.

They should make exacting demands in construction. In construction the criteria are that which is required by the Party and the people. In carrying on any project, officials should not feel satisfied with what they have done, but make greater demands so as to construct all structures as monumental creations which reach the standards required by the Party and the people and are of the highest international standards.

They should show special concern for the safety of workers and take scrupulous measures to this end to prevent even the slightest labour accident.

They should endeavour to raise the level of their own political and practical qualifications. To them, it is not merely a matter of qualification; it is a matter of eligibility, in other words, whether or not they can keep pace with the Party in the struggle to create a new history of construction for Songun Korea. They should arm themselves fully with our Party's Juche-oriented idea on architecture and its construction policy and become able, talented personnel who are well versed in their field and the work of their units, as well as in the world trend of architectural development.

Construction projects should be carried out on the strength of army-people joint operations. As they have brought about sea changes in all parts of the country by displaying the spirit of moving mountains and filling up seas at the risk of their lives if it is the Supreme Commander's order, the soldier-builders should continue to perform heroic feats in the vanguard of the sacred struggle to open up a great golden age of construction, and thus demonstrate to the full the proud features of the Party's army and its might as the architect of people's happiness. By learning from the fighting spirit of the soldier-builders, the working people in the construction sector should ensure the highest speed and quality in carrying out construction projects, thus leaving an outstanding trace in the ongoing vigorous construction campaign with an ardent, patriotic view of life.

Construction science and technology should be developed onto a higher stage.

Science and technology are an engine which drives constant advances in construction, and the shortcut to the great golden age of construction is to rapidly develop science and technology in this sector.

The scientists and technicians in the construction sector should have the national pride and scientific faith that they will beat the world and should make the best use of the knowledge

and talents they have acquired under the care of the Party, so as to provide a scientific and technological guarantee for and push ahead with the grand construction campaign for the country's prosperity and the people's well-being. They should further develop architectural design and building work on the basis of intensive research into structural diagrams, scientific methods of calculation and advanced methods of building work which are appropriate to the actual conditions of our country and may lead the world. They should strive to ensure the domestic production of building materials, and increase their variety and improve their quality so that they can compete with world-class ones. They should also make proactive efforts to develop and introduce modern and more efficient equipment, machinery and tools.

Emphasis should be put on training scientific and technical personnel in the construction sector. Today, when the heyday of construction is being led into a great golden age for the new century of the Juche era, talented designers and architects are in growing demand. Pyongyang University of Architecture is the base for training talented personnel in Juche-oriented architecture and an outpost in building a civilized socialist country. The university and other educational institutions in the construction sector should put education on an informatized, modern and advanced basis as demanded by the era of the knowledge economy, combine theory with practice, and teaching with productive labour, and guarantee the best conditions and environment for teaching so as to increase the number of able designers and architects who are fully equipped with the Juche-oriented idea on architecture. In order to produce able personnel who are talented in construction science and technology and can render a contribution to building a thriving nation, it is important to select promising people and send them abroad to study and for internships and

effectively organize refresher courses for in-service officials.

A dissemination centre for construction science and technology should be built and widely used. A wide range of worldwide architectural data should be entered into the central database to enable the relevant organs to gain access to them through a computer network.

Supervision and control over construction should be improved and strengthened.

Supervision and control should be conducted in a responsible manner in the interests of the Party and the state. With a high sense of being supervisors defending the demands and interests of the Party, the country and the people, officials in this sector should exercise strict control over construction and make increasing demands on design and building work.

We should establish a nationwide, unified system of supervision and control over construction. Only then will it be possible to conduct the overall construction of the country in line with the Party's construction policy, the development orientation for construction set by the state, and the laws and regulations on construction. A proper unified control system by the state has not yet been established in the construction sector. The construction control sector should establish a routine whereby its officials deliberate the designs of structures on site and inspect them upon their completion and exercise control so as to prevent deviations in construction. Construction control organs should establish a system of examining even the preparations for the operation of structures when inspecting them upon their completion.

Party guidance to the construction sector should be strengthened.

Party organizations should make it a major line to establish a comprehensive system of Party leadership in the construction sector and concentrate all types of Party work on this work.

Without establishing the system of Party leadership, it is impossible properly to apply the Party's Juche-oriented idea on architecture and its construction policy and usher in a great golden age of construction in line with the Party's intention.

All units in the construction sector should establish the strict discipline of accepting the Party's policy and instructions on construction as absolute and resolving the problems arising in construction according to the Party's decisions, and carry out self-sacrificingly and unconditionally the tasks the Party has assigned to them.

Party organizations should conduct political work in a proactive way so as to give full rein to the mental strength of the officials and working people in the construction sector. The driving force of the construction campaign is the mental strength of the masses of the people. Party organizations should positively encourage and lead the officials and working people in the construction sector so that they cherish Kim Jong Il's patriotism and devote their patriotic zeal and sincerity to fulfilling on time the tasks assigned to them. They should encourage them all to become performers of feats in the ongoing grand construction campaign by learning from the heroic fighting spirit and revolutionary traits possessed by the elder generations who brought about great innovations and changes by dint of the Chollima spirit and high-speed work in every decade of our revolution. By enlisting every means of information and motivational work, Party organizations should actively motivate them ideologically and widely organize socialist emulation drives; in this way, they can ensure that every construction site is brimming with the spirit of making a leap forward and carrying out tasks self-sacrificingly, militant mettle and revolutionary optimism.

Party organizations should intensify education among

officials so as to encourage them to strive to develop our own things with a high sense of national self-respect and be proactive in the work of rooting out from among them the tendency of depending on other countries.

Since builders are engaged in challenging and labour-consuming work away from home for a long time, Party organizations should regard them as their revolutionary comrades-in-arms and take warm care of them with maternal affection, to ensure that they devote their creative wisdom and zeal at construction sites out of genuine attachment to their job.

Great are the Party's trust in and expectations of the officials and working people in the construction sector in the gigantic struggle to usher in a great golden age of construction by thoroughly applying the Juche-oriented idea on architecture.

With a firm determination to translate the Party's far-reaching construction plan into brilliant reality, they should demonstrate to the whole world the dignity of the powerful Paektusan nation and the spirit of Songun Korea by bringing about a great advance and innovations at construction sites.

Printed in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

No. 483231